

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 were pending prior to the amendment. By this amendment, claims 1, 2, 4, 8, 9, 13, 18, and 19 have been cancelled without prejudice (reserving the right to pursue these claims in a continuing application). Therefore, claims 3, 5-7, 10-12, and 14-17 are now pending in this application. Claims 14-17 have been allowed. Claims 3, 5-7, and 10-12 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but have been indicated to contain allowable subject matter. Accordingly, claims 3, 5, 10, and 12 have been rewritten in independent form to include the recitations of the rejected base claim, and claim 6 has been amended to depend from allowable claim 5.

Because applicants previously paid for four independent claims, enclosed is a check in the amount of \$86.00 for payment of the fee associated with the additional independent claim pursuant to this amendment.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 8, 9, 13, 18, and 19 have been rejected as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,280,471 ("Masaki") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,346,173 ("Rasmusson"). As applicants have cancelled claims 1, 2, 4, 8, 9, 13, 18, and 19 without prejudice (reserving the right to pursue these claims in a continuing application), the rejections are moot.

Applicants do not otherwise address the characterizations of Masaki and Rasmusson put forward in the Office action and reserve the right to traverse such characterizations.

In view of the foregoing, applicants respectfully submit that the above application is in condition for allowance and request reconsideration. If there is any matter that the Examiner would like to discuss, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below. Further, if there are any additional fees or refunds required, the Commissioner is directed to charge or debit Deposit Account No. 13-2855.

Respectfully submitted,

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June 23, 2004

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